

Claims

- [c1] In a direct melt method for manufacturing optical fiber ribbon cables, the improvement comprising,
- a. replacing the step of adhesively coating the entire circumference of the drum on which there are spooled optical fibers with coating only a limited portion of the circumference of said drum;
 - b. cutting said fibers at any location within said adhesive-coated portion of said fibers; and
 - c. removing the ribbon cables from said drum thus creating said ribbon cable with distal and proximal adhesively coated ends and medial uncoated ribbon cable.
- [c2] An improved method as in claim 1 wherein said optical fibers are comprised of one of glass, crystal, and plastic optically transmissive materials.
- [c3] An improved method as in claim 1 wherein said optical fibers are selected to transmit infrared radiation.
- [c4] A flexible optical fiber ribbon cable made by the method of claim 1.
- [c5] An optical fiber ribbon cable as in Claim 4 wherein said optical fibers are comprised of one of glass, crystal, and

plastic optically transmissive materials.

- [c6] An optical fiber ribbon cable as in Claim 4 wherein said optical fibers are selected to transmit infrared radiation.
- [c7] A flexible optical fiber ribbon cable comprising at least two optical fibers having proximal and distal ends held together by adhesive coating at said eproximal and distal ends and having at least some portion of the fibers between said ends remaining uncoated.
- [c8] An optical fiber ribbon cable as in Claim 7 wherein said optical fibers are comprised of one of glass, crystal, and plastic optically transmissive materials.
- [c9] An optical fiber ribbon cable as in Claim 7 wherein said optical fibers are selected to transmit infrared radiation.
- [c10] A fiber optic reformattor comprising at least two flexible optical fiber ribbon cables comprising distal and proximal ends, said ends being arranged so that at said distal end, said ribbon cables are aligned from end to end, forming a single linear array of optical fiber ends, and at said proximal end, said ribbon cables are aligned on top of one another forming a rectangular array of optical fiber ends.
- [c11] A fiber optic reformattor comprising at least two flexible

optical fiber ribbon cables made by the method of Claim 1 comprising distal and proximal ends, said ends being arranged so that at said distal end, said ribbon cables are aligned from end to end, forming a single linear array of optical fiber ends, and at said proximal end, said ribbon cables are aligned on top of one another forming a rectangular array of optical fiber ends.

[c12] A fiber optic reformattor comprising at least two flexible optical fiber ribbon cables of the type in claim 4 comprising distal and proximal ends, said ends being arranged so that at said distal end, said ribbon cables are aligned from end to end, forming a single linear array of optical fiber ends, and at said proximal end, said ribbon cables are aligned on top of one another forming a rectangular array of optical fiber ends.

[c13] A fiber optic reformattor comprising at least two flexible optical fiber ribbon cables of the type in claim 7 comprising distal and proximal ends, said ends being arranged so that at said distal end, said ribbon cables are aligned from end to end, forming a single linear array of optical fiber ends, and at said proximal end, said ribbon cables are aligned on top of one another forming a rectangular array of optical fiber ends.